Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01176 231239Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1176

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: STATUS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: ASUNCION 945

1. PRIMERO DE MARZO CASE: EMBASSY HAS A REPORT THAT A SIXTH PERSON, A PEDRO ESTECHE, MAY BE ININVESTIGATIONS POLICE CUSTODY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRIMERO DE MARZO CASE. HE REPORTEDLY WAS DETAINED JANUARY 10 WHICH WAS TWO DAYS BEFORE THE POLICE SHOOT-OUT WHICH BROUGHT THIS CASE INTO THE LIMELIGHT. TWO OF THE SUSPECTS IN THIS CASE, PASCUAL RUBEN URBIETA VALDOVINOS AND HIS WIFE MARIA TERESA ORTEGA DE URBIETA, ACCUSED OF SHELTERING A FUGITIVE IN THE CASE, GAVE THEIR FIRST DECLARATIONS BEFORE JUDGE ARNALDO ALVAREZ ON MARCH 15. ON MARCH 17, THE JUDGE ORDERED THEIR DETENTION CONVERTED TO IMPRISONMENT PENDING A FINAL DECISION IN THEIR CASES. ANOTHER SUSPECT, SEGUNDO LLERANDI, GAVE HIS FIRST DECLARATION BEFORE THE SAME JUDGE ON MARCH 21. THE JUDGE HAS NOT YET HANDED DOWN A DECISION AS TO WHETHER HE WILL BE FREED OR HIS IMPRISONMENT CONTINUED.

2. IN THE SAME CASE, TWO OF THE WOMEN SOUGHT BY POLICE, MIRTA ELENA AYALA FERREIRA AND MARIA DE JESUS CABALLERO LEGAL, AND WHO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 01176 231239Z

HAD SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN AND COLOMBIAN EMBASSIES RESPECTIVELY, LEFT THE COUNTRY UNDER SALVOCONDUCTOS ISSUED BY THE GOP. MIRTA AYALA LEFT MARCH 20 FOR MEXICO CITY AND MARIA CABALLERO MARCH 21 FOR BOGOTA.

3. BOGADO GONDRA CASE: THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT BASILIO GOBADO, BROTHER OF JUAN FELIX BOGADO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

GONDRA, THE MAIN SUSPECT IN THE CASE, WILL ALSO BE GRANTED A SALVOCONDUCTO TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE TOLD US THAT HE HOPES TO GO ON TO THE U.S. FROM PANAMA IN ORDER TO ATTEND HARVARD UNIVERSITY. BASILIO BOGADO SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY LAST SEPTEMBER. HIS DEPARTURE WILL MEAN THAT ALL ASYLEES IN FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN ASUNCION WILL HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY.

4. NO DECISION HAVE AS YET BEEN HANDED DOWN AGAINST THE SIX REMAINING SUSPECTS IN THE BOGADO GONRA CASE. ALTHOUGH VARIOUSRUMORS REGARDING THE OUTCOME ABOUND, THE GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY STILL HAS NOT DECIDED HOW IT CAN EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THE CASE WITHOUT INCURRINGUNDESIRABLE PUBLICITY ABROAD OR SHOWING WEAKNESS AND INEPTITUDE.

5. MARTINEZ YARYES CASE: ON MARCH 17, THE GOVERNMENT PROSE-CUTOR ASKED THE SUPREME COURT TO TURN DOWN THE RADICAL LIBERAL LEADER'S APPEAL THAT THE TWO YEAR AND FIVE MONTH SENTENCE HE RECEIVED IN THE LIBEL SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY GEN. OTELLO CARPINELLI BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. WE HAD BEEN TOLD BY VARIOUS RADICAL LIBERAL LEADERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO KEEP THIS CASE, WHICH WILL HAVE ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL REPER-CUSSIONS IF THE SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT, IN A STATE OF SUSPEN-SION. HOWEVER, THE PROSECUTOR'S RECENT ACTION INDICATES THE CASE MAY BE PRESSED TO A CONCLUSION.

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6. DOROTEO GRANDEL: A WITNESS IN THE MARTINEZ YARYES CASE, GRANDEL HAD BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO BY THEMILITARY AUTHORITIES IN VILLARRICA, THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL CARPINELLI, SINCE MAY 1976. HE HAD BEEN THOUGHT DEAD BY SOME AND AMNESTY INTER-NATIONAL CARRIES HIM AS A PERSON WHO HAS DISAPPEARED. HOWEVER, FAMILY MEMBERS WERE ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM AT THE END OF FEB-RUARY. HIS WIFE HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE RELEASED SOON WITH A GIFT OF A FARM IN ANOTHER PART OF PARAGUAY. HE ASKED THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN TO HIS UNEXPECTED REBIRTH, PRESUMABLY FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS. WITH A CONVICTION ALREADY HANDED DOWN BY THE JUDGE INTHE MARTINEZ YARYES CASE, GRANDEL CAN NO LONGER ACT AS A WITNESS AGAINST GEN. CARPINELLI. THUS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN DECIDED THAT HIS CONTINUED DETENTION HAD MORE DRAWBACKS THAN THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY WHICH MIGHT ARISE IF THE FACT OF HIS KIDNAPPING BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS BECAME GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.
BRIGGS

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